

# Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



---

**HF 120** – Court Fees and Receipts (LSB 1163HV)

Analyst: Jennifer Acton (Phone: (515) 281-7846) ([jennifer.acton@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.acton@legis.iowa.gov))

Fiscal Note Version – New

---

## **Description**

**House File 120** relates to retention of fees collected for the administration of the Judicial Branch. The bill requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to remit 10.0% of the setoff amount from the collection of delinquent court debt to the State Court Administrator to defray the costs of collecting unpaid court debt. The Bill also permits the Judicial Branch to retain fees assessed for shorthand certification examinations and bar examiners fees to offset expenses for the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) within the Judicial Branch.

## **Background**

Prior to FY 2004, the Iowa Code permitted the Judicial Branch to keep 10.0% of income tax offset collection to defray the costs of the income offset procedures. Since FY 2004, Iowa Code section **8A.504** requires the fees to be deposited in the General Fund and a corresponding General Fund appropriation is made to the Judicial Branch. In FY 2012, the amount collected by the DAS for Judicial Branch Income Tax Offset was \$10.2 million.

The OPR oversees and retains the revenue from the following programs: Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE), Attorney Disciplinary Board and Grievance Commission, Client Security Commission, Lawyer Trust Account Commission, and the Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law. In addition, the OPR oversees Court Interpreters, Shorthand Reporters, and Bar Examiners. Examination fees and other miscellaneous fees for the Court Interpreters, Shorthand Reporters, and Law Examiners are deposited in the General Fund and operating expenses are funded from the General Fund appropriation to the Judicial Branch.

## **Assumptions**

- The amount collected from the income offset program for FY 2013 and future years will remain approximately the same as the amount collected in FY 2012 (\$10.2 million).
- The shorthand reporter fee revenue will remain at approximately \$28,400 per year. The bar examiner fee revenue will remain at approximately \$224,100 per year. Total revenue generated for both is \$253,000.
- No offsetting reduction will be made to the Judicial Branch appropriation.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated total fiscal impact of HF 120 for FY 2014 and future years is a General Fund revenue reduction of \$1.3 million.

**Sources**

Judicial Branch  
Department of Administrative Services

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

---

February 6, 2013

---

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

---